Reviewer’s report

Title: Perception versus polysomnographic assessment of sleep in CFS and non-fatigued controls: results from a population-based study

Version: 2 Date: 1 November 2007

Reviewer: Eva Libman

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Perception versus polysomnographic assessment of sleep in CFS and non-fatigued controls: results from a population-based study

The authors have made a substantial effort to address the reviewers’ concerns. The result is a more focused and documented report. My main previous concern was that self-report and PSG measures did not refer to the same time period. They were able to come up with some diary data, which, although consisting of very few sleep parameter items, does address the previous problem to some extent. This addition, also, interestingly resulted in the additional observation that individuals with CFS are more accurate in their perception of nocturnal wakefulness.

Discretionary Revisions

There is still no mention of the fact that both CFS subjects and controls show moderately impaired sleep quality, probably due to the fact that (a) PSG is not a good measure of insomnia, even if only the 2nd night is used, and (b) the PSG experience appears to impair sleep quality equally for both groups. An alternative interpretation to the implication of this paper that people with CFS misperceive their (normal) quality of sleep, is that they are, in fact, more accurate in their perceptions of their generally impaired sleep than people who do not have insomnia, (but may sleep badly from time to time).

There is still the collection of medication data, which is potentially important. However, stimulating and alerting medications are lumped together, and there is no commentary on what is accomplished by including these data.

Conclusion

The paper contains data and information of interest to other researchers in the field, and so can be accepted for publication with discretionary revisions.